



EUROPEAN SECTORAL SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN EDUCATION

Steering Group Meeting

21 January 2022

Minutes

Chair: Larry Flanagan, ETUCE

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

2. ESSDE Work Programme 2022-2023: finalisation and implementation

Participants stated that there was an overall agreement on the points of the WP 2022-23 except that a solution regarding the wording of the point on Attractiveness of the teaching profession must be found. *Daniel Wisniewski (EFEE)* mentioned that this is an important, vital topic and referred to the project on the Framework of Action on the Attractiveness of the Teaching Profession. Following subsequent bilateral discussion between *Daniel Wisniewski (EFEE)* and *Susan Flocken (ETUCE)*, agreement was reached on the final wording.

EFEE and ETUCE secretariats will conduct a linguistic revision of the text and subsequently publish the adopted Work Programme 2022-23.

3. Other ESSDE meetings in 2022: selection of themes for the meetings

- **Tuesday, 8 March 2022: ESSDE Working Group (hybrid)**

Participants discussed the content of the March Working Group meeting. They agreed on the following topics:

- Joint statement on the role of SPs in ensuring gender equality; *Daniel Wisniewski (EFFEE)* suggested to focus on the role of women in education; it is a very complex matter. For EFFEE, the role of women (in employment conditions, management of schools) is of importance and EFEE would not like to go beyond. *Susan Flocken (ETUCE)* is of the opinion that the statement should be about promoting gender equality in the sector in broad terms, a general statement; women are especially challenged, also in relation to the Covid pandemic situation. *Larry Flanagan (ETUCE)* added that political standpoint does not necessarily need to provoke disagreement, it is important to discuss in order to reach an agreement. ETUCE will prepare a first draft.
- Interim report of the Commission expert group on quality investment in education and training. *Susan Flocken (ETUCE)* informed that the report was released and presented and it provides a cost benefit analysis of education; SPs were invited to the presentation of the report. SPs are not mentioned, despite being reassured about the importance of their role (in the Education SSDC Plenary meeting in December 2021). It is important to discuss common inputs and contribution to this report – and it does link with the topic of the attractiveness of the teaching profession. It is important to have, as SPs, joint contribution and highlight again importance of taking SPs at EU and national level into account – either in a form of a common statement or at least a common contribution.

- **Thursday, 27 September 2022: ESSDE Working Group**

On the agenda of the WG on Higher Education and Research in September will be:

- progress report on the project implementation work - the Higher Education project (Promoting Quality of Academic Teaching and Management) and the project on the Risk assessment tool for Higher Education (also under the lead of EFEE)
- Commission Communication on European strategy for Universities – invite a Commission representative to present; with a special focus on the topic of mobility which is on the Commission higher education agenda;
- taking into account Covid pandemic plus digital working methods – possible theme of future of mobility – both physical and virtual – and cross-sectoral

- **Wednesday, 14 December 2022: ESSDE Plenary**

The following agenda points will be discussed at the December plenary meeting:

- role of social partners in promoting quality and inclusive VET and apprenticeships
- SPs promoting environmental sustainability in and through education
- Agreement on Joint Statements

4. Operation and Communication of the ESSDE: assessment of effectiveness and inclusiveness

Participants engaged in a discussion on the effectiveness and inclusiveness of their social dialogue.

Daniel Wisniewski (EFEE) raised a question about the target group of ESSDE and about its respective membership. In addition, who are the relevant stakeholders for education social partners. He suggested improving communication towards particular DGs in the Commission, number of DGs are not aware of social dialogue in education but they are very important because of their work on policy initiatives. *Susan Flocken (ETUCE)* agreed with the importance of the communication; it is also about the form of how to communicate, then certainly about who is the audience, to whom EU SPs address their statements. It is important to seek to have practical and supportive work at EU level towards national level and it is also important to have feedback from the national level. *Larry Flanagan (ETUCE)* reiterated the recurring issue of EFEE's membership, as there is a challenge and weakness concerning the participation of local level, local authorities. In his reaction, *Daniel Wisniewski (EFEE)* mentioned that often EU level SPs do not communicate well the outcomes of their work (to local governments) – lack of communication about outcomes and projects and opportunities. Another issue is that the education sector is not a first choice sector – and taking into account the limited budget of the local authorities this poses a challenge. Therefore, it is important to decide about one single topic to mainstream, topic, which would unite both sides of the industry and address the Commission and employers. Also *Susan Flocken (ETUCE)* stressed the importance of having a strong counterpart in EFEE and subsequently a strong dialogue and meaningful outcome; therefore capacity building remains highly important. It is important also to choose topics around which SPs can have a common commitment and be able to produce practical project outcomes which can be used and adapted to national context, for example different forms of guidance; that is also a way of disseminating outcomes via SPs delegates. ETUCE is happy to continue the series of joint capacity building projects and expects also EFEE's commitment, including identifying new potential employers organisations. *Daniel Wisniewski (EFEE)* suggested establishment of a Committee on how to enhance the capacity of social dialogue and how to build sustainable social dialogue at EU level.

Carmen Ludwig (ETUCE) shared an example of use of the project outcomes and statements in Germany. GEW uses ETUCE or Joint Statements at the federal level and it is of great help as they do not do this work separately as an affiliate but can rely on work done at the European level.

5. Discussion on the Follow up on

- **'Joint ETUCE-EFEE Statement on the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on sustainable education systems at times of crisis and beyond'**

- **'Joint ETUCE/EFEE Statement on Opportunities and challenges of digitalisation for the education sector'**
- **'Joint Statement on Promoting the Implementation of OiRA tools in Education Institutions by the European Sectoral Social Partners in Education' 2**
- **'JOINT Policy Recommendations on Lifelong Learning for All: Social Partners in Education promoting quality and inclusive VET to enhance lifelong learning for all'**

Participants discussed work done concerning the Joint Statement on Covid. *Susan Flocken (ETUCE)* highlighted the thematic link with the chapter of work programme on attractiveness. Covid has great impact on education systems – plus also lessons learned – inequalities, teaching and working conditions; it is important that SPs come to joint position on those topics. *Skilla Van Cuijlenborg (EFEE)* added that the crisis goes on and has effects on well-being of teachers and students. It is important to gather lessons learned, collect experiences and add it to the to make it more concrete.

Concerning the Joint Statement on Opportunities and challenges of digitalisation, Susan Flocken (ETUCE) suggested collecting good practices on how the statement has been implemented at national level – and report back at the Plenary meeting. And that also with regard to a reply to the Quality of investment report of the Commission.

Joint Statement on the promotion of OiRA tool – SPs have already agreed on a new project in relation to Higher Education, Daniel Wisniewski (EFEE) informed that an introductory meeting with EU-OSHA would take place mid-2022.

SPs discussed further their possible joint work on renewing their joint commitment to the European Alliance for Apprenticeships.

6. Update and discussion on ESSDE project developments in 2021, joint project priorities for 2022-2023 and division of tasks

- **Joint project on Higher Education Promoting Quality of Academic Teaching and Management Project**
- **Joint project Towards a Framework of Action on the Attractiveness of the Teaching Profession through effective Social Dialogue in Education**
- **Discussion on a possible new OiRA tool project for the Higher Education and research sector**
- **European Sectoral Social Partners in Education addressing psychosocial risks for an equitable and sustainable education-led recovery from the COVID-19 crisis (pending project)**
- **European Social Partners in Education Promoting environmental sustainability in school learning, teaching and management (pending project)**

SPs discussed and informed each other of project implementation work and of pending project proposals.

7. AOB

Jitka Hrudová (DG EMPL – Social Dialogue) informed about the upcoming EU level social partners consultations on the elements of the Commission Communication on the Sectoral Social Dialogue Review. In February, consultation on the supporting framework for social partner's autonomous agreements is expected, followed by a consultation on the elements of the SD Review in March / April. Furthermore, Jitka Hrudová informed about the delays in the evaluation of the proposals received for the 2021 social dialogue Call for proposals and also about the upcoming expected publication of the Trade Union's Call for proposal and Social Dialogue Call for proposals in spring 2022.

List of participants 21/01/2022

<p><u>Employers</u></p> <p>EFEE BÜHRER, Samira (EU) DUBÉCZI, Zoltán (HU) HOLOPAINEN, Heikki (FI) MELO, Rodrigo (PT) TRAORET, Emma (EU) VAN CUIJLENBORG, Scilla (NL) WABUSSEG, Ulrike (EU) WISNIEWSKI, Daniel (EU)</p> <p>8 employer representatives (4 EU, 1 EU-13, 3 EU-15)</p>	<p><u>Workers</u></p> <p>ETUCE BUCCI, Ettore (EU) FLANAGAN, Larry (UK) FLOCKEN, Susan (EU) GRYCZAN, Tomasz (EU) LUDWIG, Carmen (DE) MODRIJAN, Sandi (SI)</p> <p>6 worker representatives (3 EU, 1 EU-13, 1 EU-15, 1 non-EU)</p>
<p><u>European Commission</u> Ms Jitka HRUDOVA (EMPL.C.3 – Social Dialogue)</p>	